

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12870 171301Z

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 INR-07

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R 171230Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4611

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12870

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FOR VEST, PM, FROM SPIERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: POLITICO-MILITARY OFFICER LONDON

REF: VEST/SPIERS TELCON AUGUST 16

1. SINCE I SPOKE WITH YOU, MICHAEL MACDONALD HAS RECEIVED FROM DOD DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL WRITTEN NOTIFICATION THAT HIS POSITION HERE IS TO BE ABOLISHED AS OF 10 OCTOBER. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT STATE HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND AGREED, OR ANY REFLECTION THAT THIS POSITION IS, AS PART OF STATE/DEFENSE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, A FULLY INTEGRATED ONE WHICH PRESUMABLY CONTINUES TO BE OFFSET BY ASSIGNMENT OF AN FSO TO A PENTAGON POSITION. SINCE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED BY JOINT AGREEMENT AND DEFENSE ASSIGNEES TO STATE ARE IN OVERALL BALANCE AGAINST STATE OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO DOD, IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT POSITIONS CAN ONLY BE DISESTABLISHED BY SIMILAR AGREEMENT.

2. I CONSIDER THE POLITICO-MILITARY POSITION HERE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS EMBASSY. OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH GREAT BRITAIN IS STILL AN IMPORTANT ONE
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AND I BELIEVE A FULL-TIME POLITICO-MILITARY OFFICER IS A

SINE QUA NON FOR PROPER FUNCTIONING OF OUR POLITICAL SECTION. IF DEFENSE WISHES TO REDUCE OVERALL SIZE OF STATE /DEFENSE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND NO LONGER ASSIGN A DOD OFFICER TO EMBASSY LONDON (THIS POSITION ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED AT DIRECT INITIATIVE OF SECRETARY MCNAMARA IN 1964) -- AND STATE AGREES -- I STILL BELIEVE THAT OVERALL INTERESTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT REQUIRE THAT THIS POSITION BE FILLED. ACCORDINGLY, I URGE THAT OFFSETTING STATE POSITION PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO STATE/DEFENSE EXCHANGE PROGRAM THEN BE REMOVED FROM EXCHANGE PROGRAM, REALLOCATED TO EMBASSY LONDON AND FILLED ON URGENT BASIS BY AN EXPERIENCED FSO WITH A STRONG POLITICO-MILITARY BACKGROUND.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU OR ONE OF YOUR SENIOR DEPUTIES WOULD GIVE WHATEVER ATTENTION IS REQUIRED TO THIS PROBLEM TO MAKE SURE THAT COME OCTOBER 10 WE ARE NOT LEFT WITH NO ONE TO CARRY ON THIS FUNCTION. WHILE BRITAIN'S SECURITY ROLE HAS DIMINISHED IN RECENT YEARS, SUBJECT IS STILL A KEY ONE (THIS OFFICER ALSO HANDLES ALL EMBASSY LIAISON WITH CINCUSNAVEUR AND 3RD AIR FORCE) AND WE ARE NOW DOWN TO ONE OFFICER HANDLING SUBJECT THAT OCCUPIED FOUR OFFICERS FULL-TIME LESS THAN TEN YEARS AGO.

ARMSTRONG

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